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OUR EUROPEAN LETTER

Antiquity of Lake Nyanza--Prince Jaime of Spain--Princess Victoria Louise Shocks Homburg Society

LONDON, June 8.—Dr. Felix Oswald, expert on geology and Probate Registrar of Nottingham, who was sent to British East Africa by the British Museum, reports that he has found conclusive evidence that the great lake of Victoria Nyanza has been in existence since the Miocene Age—a matter of 3,000,000 years or so. The lake is of vast extent and lies at an altitude of 4000 feet, in a mountainous region of the equator. In places it is of vast depth, the bottom probably being below sea level.

Dr. Oswald found buried on the eastern shore of the lake parts of a number of prehistoric mammals, including the jawbone and teeth of a dinosaur of the Tertiary Era, and some bones of acanthopterygian and anthracopterygian, the ancient types of rhinoceros. They were all found close to the mouth of the Kujji or Kuya River. Other traces of fossils were unearthed at points five and fifteen miles distant, in what appeared to be the same gully.

The investigations were started close to Karungu, in what is apparently the delta of an old river which formerly ran into the lake at that point. At the top of it was a cliff of basalt, and below that was the sloping bed of the delta. The top of this bed was the ordinary black cotton soil of the district, and immediately below that were the ordinary eocretaceous beds—the top one of gray clay, the second one of red clay and white sandstone, and the third one of buff sandstone and gravel.

In each bed were fresh water shells, but there were very few fossils in the top bed. There were a fair number in the second bed, but the rich finds were in the third bed.

"Our trip," says Dr. Oswald, "establishes the great age of the high lake, the Victoria Nyanza, for it is evident from the position of the old delta that the river of which it is the relic, most probably the old course of the present-day Kujji, was running there into the lake at least as far back as the Lower Miocene period."

According to the British Museum experts the discovery of the vast age of Victoria Nyanza throws an entirely new light on the problem of human antiquity. One consequence is that civilization in Egypt may have existed from 50,000 to 500,000 years ago or even longer. For, they say, if Victoria Nyanza is 3,000,000 years old, the river Nile, of which it is the source, is not only of practically equal age, but has in all that almost inconceivably long period flowed in its present course of over 3400 miles from the equator to the Mediterranean.

That means, according to the museum scientists, that the Valley of the Nile in Egypt has remained for more than 1,000,000 years in virtually its present physical state, with conditions as favorable to human occupation and human civilization a million years ago as they were 12,000 years ago, at what is called the "dawn" of Egyptian history. And, inasmuch as the Egyptian culture of 12,000 years ago was as pronounced as it is today, there is no way of limiting, by inference, the actual extent of its antiquity.

In the course of the ages the Lake of Victoria Nyanza may have fallen somewhat in level, with a corresponding fall in the level of the Nile in Egypt, so that in prehistoric times the people lived further back inland; so it is further inland that their monuments and other remains are to be sought. In the case of most of the great lakes of the world—for example, Lake Michigan, in North America, and Lake Balkal, in Asia—marine forms of life or relics of such have been found, proving that these lakes once had connection with the sea. Such a connection implies a very great change from present physical conditions. The ice Age, too, is supposed to have broken the continuity of life.

Therefore the discoveries of Dr. Oswald as to the everlasting condition of Lake Victoria Nyanza are, of the utmost significance in indicating the peculiar conditions in the Nile Valley in Egypt favorable to the development, far back in the dim past, of human civilization, there to flourish unaffected by geographic or climatic changes.

"The heat where we worked," says Dr. Oswald, "was terrific. Tsetse-flies abounded, and I have seen the midges come over the lake in a cloud that obscured the sun to a dull yellow tinge, and the noise of their humming as they passed sounded like the lower C note on a pipe organ. Flying crickets as large as sparrows were common. There were ants three-quarters of an inch long. But what oppressed me most was the dreadful loneliness.

Strange to say, the intensely hot air was stimulating to the nerves. I drank a gallon of milk a day."

NEVER COULD BE KING.
MADRID, Spain, June 8.—Prince Jaime, the second son of King Alfonso, who was sent to a private hospital in Switzerland to be treated for deafness by an eminent aurist, has returned from Fribourg very slightly improved. He can hear the sound of the silver trumpet given him on his arrival by his elder brother, the Prince of Asturias, but he is still unable to speak and, unhappily, it seems more than probable that he never will do so.

The King and the Queen look him for a drive a few days ago through the streets and the royal party was most cordially greeted by the people, who have profound sympathy for the prince in his affliction.

On Wednesday it became necessary to operate upon Prince Jaime for an abscess in one ear, and the operation was performed by Prof. Moore of Bordeaux, France, to whom King Alfonso has been several times for throat treatment.

Prince Alfonso of course is a Spanish soldier and is attached to the First Regiment of the Line, but alas! he has outgrown his uniform.

He is such a big boy, fair with blue eyes, but he has something of his Bourbon ancestors' protruding lip. He is very clever, though indolent and somewhat quick tempered. Yet he is very kind to animals, and treats all inferiors with exquisite politeness.

Upbringing of the Royal Children.
The royal children of Spain are brought up very simply. They have their apartments in a sort of enclosure that is over the private apartments of the King and Queen. In fact, their Majesties can hear early in the morning the patter of tiny feet overhead that tells them it is time to get up, because the children will soon come down and want their morning romp.

The apartments of the royal children are very English, but quite pretty. One would think, looking at the small windows from outside the palace, that they could not be healthful, but once inside one finds plenty of air, there being three windows or even four for each room, with ventilators above and below the windows.

The playroom, or study, is all white with cupboards everywhere full of toys and children's books, simple furniture and a pretty frieze whereon the children can follow "The House that Jack Built" and "Who Killed Cock Robin?" in white tiles. A bright fire burns in the grate all winter. The Queen allows no other means of warming her children's rooms.

The night nursery reminds me of mine (when a little girl) and I fancy the Anglo-Spanish Queen has built her babies' nest just in the same way as the mothers in old England did. There are the three windows, quite undraped, looking out into the beautiful gardens. There the clothes of the baby hang before the open fire to get quite dry, although in Madrid everything dries up very quickly. There is the last baby's cot, with nodding and a lot of lovely linen. In distant corners are the simple white beds of the future King of Spain and of Princess Beatrice.

Prettiest, Brightest, Never Could Be King.

Prince Jaime has his own also there in a corner. Dear little prince! Born deaf, of course he is dumb, but he is the prettiest and the brightest of the King's children, and perhaps with modern treatment he may yet talk, even if his hearing is bad.

This is the great sorrow of the Queen of Spain's life. She often has a sad look on her face that we used to attribute to that awful Anarchist bomb thrown on her bridal carriage on her wedding day when both the King and herself miraculously escaped and over fifty of her new royal subjects were killed.

A year later the Prince of Asturias was born and he is a healthy, bright boy, full of life and health. Another year later came Prince Jaime, so clever that he can read on every lip the question, and make himself understood with the beautiful, expressive eyes one often sees in dumb animals. At first he was supposed to be entirely normal but he could never articulate, never started at a sound, though he was almost too quick in understanding what his nurses wanted of him. By and by his parents consulted great doctors and discovered that he had one of the and traits of the Bourbons—born deaf and consequently dumb.

Of course the specialists hope eventually to cure him, but he most likely will be incapacitated to take the place of the present Prince of Asturias, in

case any extraordinary event should take place.

As matters stand at the present moment the throne of Spain would, after Alfonso XIII. and his son and heir, Alfonso XIV., pass once more into a woman's hands, and Princess Beatrice, three years old now, could be Queen of Spain. She is a lovely little lady, with curly locks, and is quite her mother's daughter. Every one in the palace dotes upon her.

But the Prince of Asturias is a splendid boy, and "God save the future King!"

PRINCESS SHOCKS HOMBURG.
BERLIN, June 8.—Princess Victoria Louise has been astonishing the natives of Homburg, the famous Rhenish watering-place, by appearing on the promenade in a Corfu peasant girl's costume she bought during her stay at her imperial father's Castle Achilleon this spring.

Princess Victoria inherits Emperor William's liking for what the sarcastic Berlin press used to call "mummy." As a child she once staggered the guests at a court garden party by appearing in a home-made imitation of a circus performer's costume and endeavoring to perform some feats for which the costume was not quite strong enough.

The Emperor used to bring down the wrath of his loyal subjects about once a year by "play-acting" somewhere or other. He rode into the famous ruins of the Hohkoenigsberg in the upper Rhine Valley in the costume of a general of the Thirty Year's War and all his suite were compelled to dress in similar fashion. When he wanted to repeat the performance and ride into the model Roman camp on the Saalburg near Homburg as a Roman general at the head of a properly equipped Roman legion there was a storm of rage in the press, which said that German soldiers are not to be employed for "mummying," so the Emperor had to surrender his project.

It was after that episode that some one devised the now proverbial phrase: "The Kaiser always wants to be the baby at a christening and the corpse at a funeral!"

Society is amused at Nancy Leishman's latest adventure. She is a splendid skater and her exquisite Paris skating costume attracted quite as much the recent exhibition. Since the ice ring closed she has gone in for roller skating and, like many Berlin enthusiasts, takes advantage of the superb asphalt pavements for practicing the sport.

The other afternoon while she was cutting figure eights on the sidewalk in front of the embassy her father presides over, and before an admiring crowd of Leishman lackeys and other gentlemen, Prince George of Greece with another officer from a Potsdam arrived upon the scene in an automobile to call at the embassy. For a moment the Prince looked slightly shocked, then smilingly complimented the skater on her skill.

Mr. and Mrs. Putnam Griswold arrived in Berlin on Tuesday. They are at the Adlon Hotel, which during the summer will be the chief rendezvous for visiting American artists.

To encourage American sport in Berlin Ambassador Leishman has accepted the chairmanship of a committee which is arranging a baseball game to be played toward the last of this month between nine drawn from the colony and the medical students.

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